

TINY HIKER

Teacher Guide

In this rhyming picture book, the tiny hiker is excited for her first backpacking trip to camp on the beach, but when the trail is longer, steeper and much more difficult than she expected, she has to find a way to keep going—even when she wants to give up.



About the author

Natasha Zimmers loves being outside in all seasons and weather, but her favorite place to be is on a wild west coast beach, backpacking with her own not-so-tiny hikers. She teaches outdoor education and loves seeing the world through the eyes of her students as they discover the wonders of nature. She lives in Western Washington.



About the illustrator

Jaimie MacGibbon is a children's book illustrator living in the mountains of British Columbia. She has always loved stories and storytelling. When she isn't doing so with art and books, Jaimie enjoys telling stories onstage, participating in community theater. Jaimie loves using expressive line work, playing with light and drawing characters that are full of life.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you think the tiny hiker is feeling about hiking at the start of her adventure when she steps into the shady woods, weaves between the ancient trees and stops to watch the slow slug? What clues from the pictures or text help you know how she is feeling?
2. What does the rest of the group do while the tiny hiker lays on the forest floor and cries? What can people do to help you when you feel like you can't continue something hard?
3. Why do you think the tiny hiker says she's not tired when she is sitting by the fire?
4. What would be your favorite part of the hike, if you were the tiny hiker?
5. What do you think would be hardest for you, if you were the tiny hiker?

Find It On the Page Activity

1. How many monster leaves (leaves with faces) can you find?
2. How many squirrels can you find?
3. What other animals are hidden in the illustrations?



Action Word Activity

On each page, the tiny hiker takes action.

Ask students to choose an action word, and have them act it out or hold up a card when they hear their word read aloud during the story.

LOADS

STAGGERS

LEAPS

STEPS

TRIPS

LEANS

WEAVES

CRYES

SNUGGLES

IS BRAVE

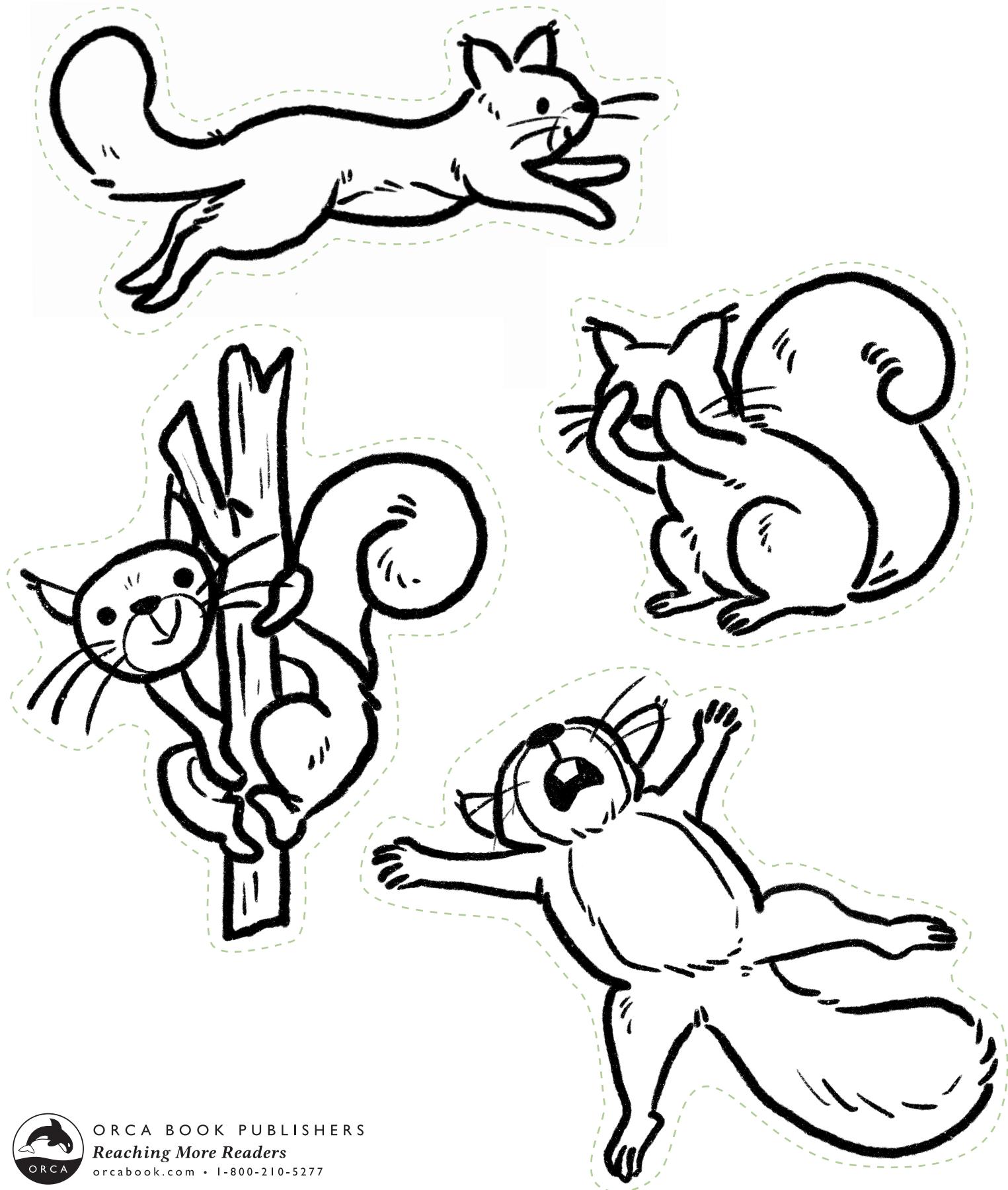
SPIES

What action word would you choose for the page with no words? Write about what is happening in this scene, either as a shared writing activity or individually.



Squirrel Stick Puppet Activity

Print out the squirrel stick puppet template, color and decorate them, cut on the dotted line and glue them onto popsicle sticks. Invite children to hold up their stick puppet every time they see a squirrel on the page.



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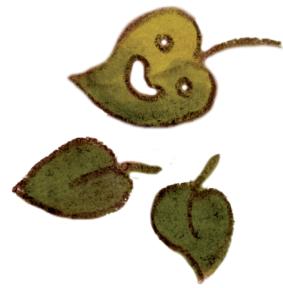
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Make a Monster Leaf Craft Activity

What kinds of leaves can you find on the ground where you live? (Remember not to pick leaves directly off of plants. Plants need them!)

Choose a fallen leaf and cut or tear two eyes and a mouth to make a Monster Leaf.

Leave a Monster Leaf trail around the playground, park or classroom and see if others can follow the trail.



Song Activity

Learn the Tiny Hiker's Ten Essentials using this song! Sing it to the tune of "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes".

♪ ♪ Food and Water
Shelter, Warmth (Shelter, Warmth)

Food and Water
Shelter, Warmth (Shelter, Warmth)

Communication, Ways to Navigate,
Light, Tools, First Aid, and a Hat (and a Stuffy) ♪ ♪

Sorting Activity

Post the Tiny Hiker's Ten Essentials around your classroom or other space (food, water, shelter, warmth, communication, ways to navigate, light, tools, first aid, hat, stuffy).

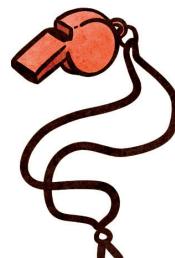
Hold up a picture of these items, or read the items aloud.

Whistle	Warm coat	Multitool
Phone with navigation app	Sleeping bag	String
Walkie talkie	Sun hat	Bandaids
Signal mirror	Toque	Tweezers
Granola bars	Mittens	Gauze and tape
Trail mix	Rain pants	Bug spray
Water bottle	Tarp shelter	Sun screen
Water filter	Foam pad	Trail map
Backpacking stove	Flashlight	Stuffed octopus
Rain coat	Headlamp	



Ask students to move to the Essential they think the item fits under. Discuss why they chose what they did before moving to the next item. Some items aren't obvious, and some fit into more than one category to make for interesting discussions.

Extension: Have students create their own item cards, then play the game again with student created cards.



Tiny Hiker Comic Activity

Color the Tiny Hiker's Packing Essentials, or fill in your own packing list here. Add labels and drawings in the comic squares.



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